

The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider and enter the following amendments:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-11, 13-15, 17-19, 21-23 and 25, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please add new Claims 27-57, as follows:

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27. A multi-beam scanning apparatus comprising:

a light source unit comprising a laser light source and a driving circuit board for driving said laser light source, said laser light source including a laser chip having a plurality of emission points for emitting laser beams and a terminal for energizing the laser chip, said driving circuit board being connected to the terminal of said laser light source and having a longitudinal edge;

scanning means for scanning a surface to be scanned with the laser beams emitted by said light source unit; and

a housing having a wall with a longitudinal edge, wherein said housing contains said scanning means and supports said light source unit on the wall, and

wherein said laser light source is fixed such that a straight line inclined with respect to the longitudinal

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Cont. / edge of said driving circuit board passes the plurality of emission points.

28. An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the longitudinal edge of said driving circuit board is arranged substantially in parallel with the longitudinal edge of the wall of said housing.

29. An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein said driving circuit board has a substantially rectangular shape.

30. An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein said light source unit further comprises a holder holding said laser light source.

31. An apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said holder has a reference surface and holds said laser light source such that a straight line inclined with respect to the reference surface passes the plurality of emission points.

32. An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the plurality of emission points of said laser light source is arranged linearly.

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33. An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the plurality of emission points of said laser light source is arranged two-dimensionally.

34. An apparatus according to claim 30, wherein said light source unit further comprises a collimator lens for collimating the laser beams emitted from said laser light source and a lens barrel holding said collimator lens, said lens barrel being integrated with said holder.

35. An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein said laser light source is a multi-beam semiconductor laser.

36. An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein said scanning means comprises a rotary polygon mirror for deflecting the laser beams emitted by said light source unit and an imaging lens for focusing the laser beams deflected by said rotary polygon mirror.

37. A multi-beam light source unit comprising:  
a laser light source comprising a laser chip having a plurality of emission points for emitting laser beams and a terminal for energizing the laser chip; and  
a driving circuit board for driving said laser light source, said driving circuit board being connected to

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said terminal of said laser light source and having a longitudinal edge,

wherein said laser light source is fixed such that a straight line inclined with respect to the longitudinal edge of said driving circuit board passes the plurality of emission points.

38. A unit according to claim 37, wherein said driving circuit board has a substantially rectangular shape.

39. A unit according to claim 37, further comprising a holder holding said laser light source.

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40. A unit according to claim 39, wherein said holder has a reference surface and holds said laser light source such that a straight line inclined with respect to the reference surface passes the plurality of emission points.

41. A unit according to claim 37, wherein the plurality of emission points of said laser light source is arranged linearly.

42. A unit according to claim 37, wherein the plurality of emission points of said laser light source is arranged two-dimensionally.

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43. A unit according to claim 39, wherein said light source unit further comprises a collimator lens for collimating the laser beams emitted from said laser light source and a lens barrel holding said collimator lens, said lens barrel being integrated with said holder.

44. A unit according to claim 37, wherein said laser light source is a multi-beam semiconductor laser.

45. A multi-beam scanning apparatus comprising:  
a light source unit comprising a laser light source having a plurality of emission points for emitting laser beams;

scanning means for scanning a surface to be scanned with the laser beams emitted by said light source unit;

a housing supporting said light source unit and said scanning means; and

at least three fixing members fixing said light source unit to said housing,

wherein the plurality of emission points of said laser light source are located within a planar region defined by straight lines connecting respectively two of the three fixing members, and

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wherein said three fixing members restrict movement of said light source unit toward the direction leaving said housing.

46. An apparatus according to claim 45, wherein said light source unit is rotatable for adjustment before it is fixed to said housing, the rotation center being located within the planar region defined by straight lines connecting respectively two of the three fixing members.

47. An apparatus according to claim 45, wherein said fixing members comprise a screw.

48. An apparatus according to claim 45, wherein said fixing members comprise an adhesive.

49. An apparatus according to claim 45, wherein said light source unit further comprises an adjustment member for adjusting a relative position of said laser light source.

50. An apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the plurality of emission points of said laser light source is arranged linearly.

51. An apparatus according to claim 45, wherein the plurality of emission points of said laser light source is arranged two-dimensionally.

52. An apparatus according to claim 45, wherein said light source unit further comprises a holder holding said laser light source.

53. An apparatus according to claim 52, wherein said light source unit further comprises a collimator lens for collimating the laser beams emitted from said laser light source and a lens barrel holding said collimator lens, said lens barrel being integrated with said holder.

54. An apparatus according to claim 45, wherein said laser light source is a multi-beam semiconductor laser.

55. An apparatus according to claim 45, wherein said scanning means comprises a rotary polygon mirror for deflecting the laser beams emitted by said light source unit and an imaging lens for focusing the laser beams deflected by said rotary polygon mirror.

56. An apparatus according to claim 45, wherein said light source unit further comprises a driving circuit